

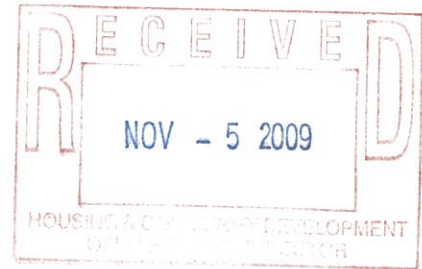


# City of Whittier

13230 Penn Street, Whittier, California 90602-1772  
(562) 464-3380 Fax (562) 464-3509

*Cathy*

October 28, 2009



Housing & Community Development  
1800 Third Street  
P.O. Box 952050  
Sacramento, CA 94252-2050

**Subject: City of Whittier 2008-2009 General Plan Progress Report**

Dear HCD Official:

Attached is a copy of the "City of Whittier 2008-2009 General Plan Progress Report", approved by the Whittier City Council on October 27, 2009, for your review. Government Code Section 65400(b) requires that an annual General Plan progress report be provided to the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). The purpose of this report is to discuss the City's progress in implementing the General Plan, meeting its share of regional housing needs, and removing governmental constraints to the maintenance, improvement and development of housing. This report covers the period between October 1, 2008 and September 30, 2009.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (562) 464-3380.

Sincerely,

Don Dooley,  
Planning Services Manager

Enc: City of Whittier 2008-2009 General Plan Progress Report



**CITY OF WHITTIER**

**2008 – 2009 GENERAL PLAN ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
PLANNING DIVISION**

**OCTOBER 27, 2009**



## BACKGROUND

State law requires that each City adopt a general plan that incorporates seven mandated elements. Additional topics may be adopted, which are called optional elements. State law also states that the General Plan should be kept current. This is done through comprehensive updates and through amendments. Updates for an element are usually undertaken at least five years apart, and they look at underlying conditions and preferences. Amendments are typically smaller in scope and typically involve minor changes to the text of the General Plan or modifying the General Plan land-use map. Amendments are typically triggered by a private (developer) application or by direction from the City Council. Changes to the General Plan require a public hearing before the Planning Commission and the City Council.

On August 3, 1993, the Whittier City Council adopted the City's current General Plan. The General Plan contains eight elements: Land Use, Housing, Transportation, Environmental Resource Management, Air Quality, Public Safety, Noise and Historical Resources. Table 1 shows the status of the City's General Plan elements, including both State mandated and optional.

**Table 1. General Plan Element Status.**

<b>Element</b>	<b>Required or Optional</b>	<b>Date of Adoption or Amendments</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Land Use	<b>Required</b>	Adopted on May 18, 2006.	The City Council approved General Plan Amendment 06-001 to permit exceptions to the City's minimum residential density requirements in the City's R-2 (Light Multiple Residential); R-3 (Medium Multiple Residential); and R-4 (Heavy Multiple Residential) Zones.
Housing	<b>Required</b>	Adopted on Dec. 12, 2006. [Updated Housing Element pending City approval in Fall/Winter of 2009]	City Staff is currently updating the Housing Element for the Planning period 2006-2014 to comply with its Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) requirements. Staff anticipates that the City's new Housing Element to be completed and adopted by November 2009.
Transportation	<b>Required</b>	Adopted in 1993.	No amendments.

Environmental Resource Management Element	<b>Required</b>	Adopted in 1993.	No amendments.
Air Quality	<b>Required</b>	Adopted in 1993.	No amendments.
Public Safety	<b>Required</b>	Adopted in 1993.	No amendments.
Noise Element	<b>Required</b>	Adopted in 1993.	No amendments.
Historical Resources	<b>Optional</b>	Adopted in 1993.	No amendments.

As required by Government Code Section 65400(b)(1), every city must submit an annual progress report to their local legislative body, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), and the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) on the implementation status of their General Plan. The annual report must also include discussion on the City's progress in providing its required share of affordable housing, pursuant to Government Code Section 65584, and its effort to remove governmental barriers for the maintenance, improvement and development of affordable housing per Section 65583.c(3) of the California Government Code.

This report covers the planning period October 1, 2008, through September 30, 2009.

## **STATUS OF GENERAL PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS**

### **General Plan**

#### **Land Use Element**

The Land Use Element serves as a guide for public and private decision-making regarding land use issues and future development. Specific goals and policies are provided to correspond to major land use issues of concern including: land use compatibility, residential, commercial and industrial uses, parks and open space areas.

The City of Whittier is considered a developed community comprised mostly of single-family residential neighborhoods, with its predominant commercial and industrial uses situated along several major roadways. As a developed community, any future development in the city would occur as infill or redevelopment.

In 1993, an updated Land Use Element was adopted as part of the City's comprehensive General Plan update. Since adoption of the City's current General Plan, the City has processed a variety of new land use developments.

From October 1, 2008, through September 30, 2009, the City of Whittier has adopted a total of 13 Zoning Code Amendments, one Specific Plan Amendment (Uptown Whittier Specific Plan) and continued working on one General Plan Amendment (Housing Element). The details are as follows:

#### Zoning Code Amendments

1. Zoning Code Amendment 08-003 (City initiated). To add Chapter 18.47 (Wireless telecommunication facilities on public and private property) to the Whittier Municipal Code. (Adopted February 10, 2009)
2. Zoning Code Amendment 08-004 (City initiated). To adopt an interim urgency ordinance that would place a moratorium on the establishment of smoking bars and lounges within the City. (Adopted July 8, 2008)
3. Zoning Code Amendment 08-007 - (City initiated). To amend Chapter 18.44 (Adult Entertainment Establishments) of the Whittier Municipal Code. (Adopted February 10, 2009)
4. Zoning Code Amendment 08-008 - (City initiated). To add Chapter 18.99 (Parking Structure Development Standards and Design Guidelines) to the Whittier Municipal Code. (Adopted February 10, 2009)
5. Zoning Code Amendment 09-001 - (City initiated). To modify Chapter 18.34.050 (Development Standards) of the Whittier Municipal Code to create development and design requirements for walls and fences in the "M" (Manufacturing) zone. (Adopted March 24, 2009)
6. Zoning Code Amendment 09-002 - (City initiated). To codify the College Hills Historic District by adopting Chapter 18.89 to the Whittier Municipal Code. (Adopted May 26, 2009)
7. Zoning Code Amendment 09-004 - (City initiated). To modify various sections in the Whittier Municipal Code, the Uptown Whittier Specific Plan, and the Whittwood Town Center Specific Plan to eliminate all references to the "Design Review Board" for the purpose of dissolving the Board and establishing alternative management processes for administering Development Review applications and other existing Design Review Board functions. (Adopted July 28, 2009)
8. Zoning Code Amendment 09-005 - (City initiated). To amend the Whittier Boulevard Specific Plan (WBSP) to temporarily accommodate used automotive dealerships under the review and approval of a Temporary Conditional Use Permit. (Adopted May 26, 2009)
9. Zoning Code Amendment 09-008 - To amend the City's existing Vacant Lot Ordinance. (Adopted June 23, 2009).
10. Zoning Code Amendment 09-009 - To amend Chapter 18.76.080 of the Whittier Municipal Code as it pertains to the time limitations in which a temporary sign may be displayed. (Adopted June 9, 2009)
11. Zoning Code Amendment 09-010 - To amend Chapter 18.04.110 (Period of Validity - Extensions - Permits and Other Approvals) of the Whittier Municipal Code pertaining to the expiration of various land-use and development entitlements by various approval authorities. This

amendment is a temporary measure that would allow an automatic 18-month extension of the period of validity for various land-use and development entitlement approval(s). (Adopted June 9, 2009)

12. Zoning Code Amendment 09-011 – To add Chapter 18.49 (Smoking Lounge) to the Whittier Zoning Code pertaining to the establishment of smoking lounges. (Adopted August 25, 2009)
13. Zoning Code Amendment 09-012 - To amend Section 18.04.120 (Modification of conditions—Permits and other approvals) of the Whittier Municipal Code by adding a provision that gives the Director of Community Development authority to administratively approve minor modification(s) to approved plans from higher approval authorities. (Adopted August 25, 2009)

#### General Plan Amendments

1. General Plan Amendment (City initiated) -The Comprehensive update to the City's 2006 Housing Element for the Planning Period 2006-2014 (in progress). The expected completion date is October 2009.

#### Specific Plans

1. On November 18, 2008, the City of Whittier completed its update the 1989 Uptown Whittier Specific Plan. The updated Specific Plan is the City's first Form Based Code that facilitates the creation of a variety of commercial, residential and mixed-use developments. It also specifies particular architectural styles that are compatible with the historic atmosphere of the Uptown area. There also are numerous design and parking concepts that have been incorporated within the updated Specific Plan that the City believes will enhance the aesthetics and economic vitality of the area. On June 17, 2009, the City of Whittier won the Los Angeles Section APA award for a Comprehensive Plan (Small Jurisdiction) for the 2008 Uptown Whittier Specific Plan.

**Housing Element** - In a continuing effort to provide housing assistance within the community, the City of Whittier and the Whittier Redevelopment Agency have sponsored a number of housing programs, which are implemented by the Redevelopment and Housing Division of the Community Development Department. The Whittier Redevelopment Agency is a separate legal entity established in early 1970's to eliminate blight and improve infrastructure within Whittier's four Redevelopment Project Areas, and to assist low and moderate income families to secure decent, safe, and sanitary housing at affordable prices citywide. The focus of the Redevelopment and Housing division is to provide financial assistance in the form of low cost home improvement programs, provide essential public services, stimulate the revitalization of older declining neighborhoods and monitor the modernization of essential infrastructure in neighborhoods with a high concentration of low-moderate income residents.



*Share of Regional Housing Need* - The City's Housing Element identifies Whittier's housing goals and objectives. The City's share of affordable housing units is determined by a Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) conducted by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). Table No. 2 (below) identifies the specific number and type of affordable housing units to be constructed within the City of Whittier from 2000 to 2005. This identification of affordability type is categorized as Very Low (less than 50 percent of Los Angeles County median income), Low (50-80 percent of L.A. County median income), Moderate (80-120 percent of L.A. County median income), and Above Moderate (greater than 120 percent of L.A. County median income). However, the actual affordability is based on many factors including, but not limited to: household income, sales price, financing terms, required down payment, permitted debt ratio and household size (number of persons in the family).

**Table 2. City of Whittier – Regional Housing Needs (2000-2005)**

<b>Income Category</b>	<b>Housing Units</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>
Very Low	66	21.3%
Low	54	17.5%
Moderate	70	22.7%
Above Moderate	119	38.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Housing Element Update** – The City's current Housing Element was updated in 2006. City staff is currently working on updating Whittier's Housing Element for the Planning period 2006-2014 in order to comply with its new Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) requirement of 892 units. Staff anticipates the updated Housing Element to be completed in October 2009.

Listed below, are the City's Housing requirements for the Planning period of 2006 to 2014.

**Table 3. City of Whittier - Regional Housing Needs (2006-2014)**

<b>Income Category</b>	<b>Housing Units</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>
Very Low	226	25.3%
Low	140	15.7%
Moderate	151	16.9%
Above Moderate	375	42.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>892</b>	<b>100%</b>

Under the 2005 Whittier Boulevard Specific Plan, up to 1,490 new units were anticipated to be constructed within the City. From 2007-2008, a total of 96 ownership units were approved for development. These units are currently under construction within the Whittier Boulevard Specific Plan (located at 16050 and 16110 Whittier Boulevard). Additional housing stock is also anticipated elsewhere in the City, particularly within the Uptown Whittier Specific Plan which permits up to 1,035 new dwelling units as part of the 2008 update to the Specific Plan.

Therefore, the City of Whittier is actively in the process of creating and approving new housing units for all socio-economic groups in the community.

*Housing Objectives and Programs* - The following summarizes the progress that the City has made toward achieving Housing Element objectives and development of specific programs:

- 1) **Assistance to the Salvation Army** (CDBG funded): The City has provided a small amount of grant funding to the Salvation Army to support the Hospitality House and Shower program. This program assists homeless individuals by providing a safe environment to eat, sleep, and shower.
- 2) **Housing Rehabilitation** (CDBG and HOME funded) program offers low-interest or no-interest loans to promote the improvement, rehabilitation and/or the preservation housing units. The loans are often times paired with a grant for exterior beautification or lead-based paint removal. Improvements and repairs eligible under the program include lead-based paint testing and hazard reduction, electrical, heating, plumbing, roofing, stucco application, exterior and interior painting, windows, insulation, concrete driveway, kitchen and bathroom repairs, flooring, etc. Like the MHRG program, the program is available to Low-income households earning no more than 80% of the area median income adjusted for family size. In fiscal year 2008-2009, this program funded nine loans. Between its inception and 2008-09, the HOME (Home Investment Partnership Program) funded portion of the program assisted 74 homeowners. CDBG funds are also used for housing rehabilitation purposes. From the program's inception through 2008-09, the CDBG funded portion of the program has assisted approximately 280 homeowners. In addition to the loans the City now offers a grant program of up to \$10,000 primarily for roof replacement. Two households utilized this program in 2008-09.
- 3) The **Minor Home Repair Grant Program** (MHRG) (CDBG funded) is available to low-income families. It makes available grants of up to \$4,000 for minor home repairs such as: painting, minor plumbing and electrical repairs, window and door repairs, and other items of a similar nature including accessibility improvements for the disabled. The program was initiated in Fiscal Year 2004-05. In 2008-09 the City Council allocated a total of \$115,000 in CDBG funds to the program. Additional amounts were also carried over from the prior fiscal year. The program is operated by Veteran's In Community Service (VICS) and Southern California Rehabilitation Services (SCRS). The VICS run program was able to assist 30 households in 2008-09, while the SCRS program, which focuses on accessibility improvements, was able to assist one household during the same period.
- 4) The **Rio Hondo Temporary Home** (Redevelopment funded) provides transitional housing, food and related supportive services to assist

families and individuals regain self-sufficiency. The Agency has provided annual funding in the amount of \$50,000 to the Home for the past several years using LMI Set-Aside funds (20% of gross tax increment from redevelopment areas). The Home served seven families from the City of Whittier with 28 individuals in 2008-09.

- 5) The **Whittier Area First Day Coalition** (Redevelopment funded) is a homeless shelter that opened in May 2000, and has been funded \$100,000 annually using redevelopment LMI Set-Aside funds. In 2008-09, First Day provided housing for 138 individuals for a total of 13,709 person shelter days. The facility also provides related supportive services to help homeless individuals regain self-sufficiency. First Day also receive a loan from City HOME funds to assist in acquisition and rehabilitation of a three-unit property on Newlin Avenue. The units will be rented to homeless families for up to two years.
- 6) The **Women's and Children Crisis Shelter** (Redevelopment funded) provided temporary shelter food, clothing, crisis intervention and advocacy for victims of domestic violence. The Agency has provided \$34,000 annually using redevelopment LMI Set-Aside funds. In 2008-09 the facility gave shelter to 240 persons for 5,831 person shelter days.
- 7) On June 9, 2009 the Whittier Redevelopment Agency Board approved the new **Affordable Home Ownership Program** (AHOP). The AHOP is essentially a silent second loan that allows moderate income households to purchase a designated home at an affordable first mortgage amount that has been fixed by a predetermined formula set by State Law. Affordable units are designated in certain new housing development projects. First implementation of the AHOP is currently underway at the 96-unit Gables of Whittier project. There will be 24 affordable units sold at the property over three development phases.
- 8) The **First Time Home Buyer Program** (FTHB) (Redevelopment funded). The FTHB program has assisted 73 families from its inception in 1997-98 through June 2006. However, due to the extraordinary market conditions, the program was suspended during 2005-06 and did not assist any buyers in 2008-09.
- 9) The **Community Alliance for Responsible Enforcement Program** (CARE) (Redevelopment funded) was added to the Agency housing assistance efforts in 1999. It has the primary goal of enhancing the visual appearance of neighborhood while creating a sense of safety and security in the Area. The Program allows property owners and managers to bring about improvement in building conditions and management. The minimum loan amount is \$2,000 and the maximum amount is \$22,500. Due to minimal participation by property owners, the program was suspended and did not assist any new households in 2008-09. However, the CARE program assisted 45 properties from its inception in 1999 through June 2007.

**Transportation Element** – The Circulation Element defines the transportation needs of the City and presents a comprehensive transportation plan to accommodate those needs. The Element also focuses on identifying and evaluating local circulation needs, while balancing those needs with regional demands and mandates. The City of Whittier currently participates in local and regional transportation planning and decision-making by implementing the guidelines of the Los Angeles County Congestion Management Plan and conforming to the Los Angeles County Master Plan of Arterial Highways.

Through the Capital Improvements Programs (CIP), the City has undertaken various projects from October 1, 2008, through September 30, 2009, as described in the Table 4 below:

**Table 4. Capital Improvements Programs**

Project	Description
Bus Stop Improvements	The City is preparing plans and specifications to construct various bus stops/benches and bus shelters at various locations using multiple funding sources. Construction pending. This will overlap into the next reporting period.
Lambert Road Resurfacing-Painter Avenue to west of Mills Avenue, and Scott Avenue to Leffingwell Road	Project consisted of ADA upgrades to sidewalks and accessible ramps, and a "rubberized" asphalt overlay to Lambert Road. The project is complete. The total project cost was \$1,000,000.
CDBG Pavement Rehabilitation	Resurfaced several neighborhood streets in the City's CDBG area using rubberized asphalt. The project is complete. The total project cost was \$90,000.
Philadelphia Street, et.al pavement rehabilitation	Slurry sealed and chip sealed several arterial roadways in the City of Whittier. Bike Lanes added to a segment of a Philadelphia Street adjacent to Whittier College. The project is complete. The total project cost was \$445,000
Construction of Sidewalk and Access Ramps (TDA Fund)	Constructed new sidewalk and access ramps at various locations to provide for ADA accessibility. The project is complete. The total project cost is \$50,000.

Pavement Surface Treatment (Slurry Seal) Program FY08-09:	Slurry sealed 1.5 square mile of city local and collector streets in East Whittier (aka Area 1) in accordance with the City's adopted Pavement Management System. The total project cost is \$700,000.
<i>Byron and Rivera Road overlay project</i>	Pavement rehabilitation of two industrial collector streets in accordance with our Pavement Management System. Construction pending. The project has been currently awarded for a cost of \$210,000.
<i>Alley pavement rehabilitation project</i>	Pavement rehabilitation of seven miles of city alleys utilized by solid waste service vehicles. The project is in the bidding process, thus construction is pending. Estimated construction cost is \$330,000.
Greenway Trail Project	Project consisted of 4.75 miles of paved and landscaped bicycle/pedestrian trail constructed along an old railroad corridor. The total project cost was approximately \$14 million.
Congestion Management Program (CMP)-2009 Conformance Self Certification	The CMP is a countywide program enacted by California to improve traffic congestion. The City of Whittier was approved for conformity with the program by the Metropolitan Transportation Agency (MTA) in 2009. There were no fiscal impacts.

In addition to providing street and traffic circulation improvements, the City of Whittier has operated a Dial-A-Ride service for Senior Citizens and those with disabilities in Whittier since 1974. The service is comprised of eight accessible vans and one sedan.

In 2000, the City purchased 4.75 miles of railroad right-of-way to use as a bicycle, walking, jogging, disabled access pathway and commuter trail. The "Greenway Trail" offers commuters an alternative pedestrian path/public right-of-way to reduce vehicular traffic congestion and noise, while helping to improve regional air quality. Construction of the Greenway Trail began in the fall of 2006 and was completed in 2008.

**Environmental Resources Management Element** – The Environmental Resources Management Element (ERME) combines the mandated Conservation and Open Space Elements. This Element identifies environmental resources

within the City and establishes a plan for their conservation, management, or preservation.

In terms of the Resource Management, the City has worked collaboratively with the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a water treatment plant on Durfee Road in the Whittier Narrows Dam area. The EPA plant has been producing treated water since January 2006. The water treatment plant treats water and then recharges it back into the ground, into the San Gabriel River or supplies water to the City. The EPA plant produces 90% of City's potable water demand with the other 10% produced from a combination of water from the Central Basin Municipal Water District's Treatment Plant and water from City Wells.

The City is working toward upgrading all city-operated irrigation systems. Five park locations have been upgraded to become part of a centralized irrigation system. Seven locations have become SMART systems with shut off irrigation valves if there is a broken line. As funds become available, additional park sites will be upgraded.

Plans for the 4.75-mile Greenway Trail were approved by the City in December of 2001. The project construction started August 2006 and was completed in 2008.

The Greenway Trail includes thirteen (13) irrigation controllers which are a part of the City's centralized irrigation system. In addition, Phase #1 of the Greenway Trail landscape plan calls for drought tolerant plant material to be installed along the entire 4.75-mile length. The Trail will provide the following amenities: a bike trail, walking trail and connecting trails to several schools, parks, and neighborhoods and will have educational elements located in the four "stations." The City will continue upgrading access, safety and use issues after completing a comprehensive Parks "Needs" Study.

**Air Quality Element** – The Air Quality Element is not a state-mandated element but is recommended under the 1991 Air Quality Management Plan for the South Coast Air Basin. The Air Quality Element contains programs that will allow the City of Whittier to contribute to the attainment of state and federal clean air standards. Listed below are projects the City of Whittier is implementing/developing to fulfill the goals of the Air Quality Element.

The City is actively pursuing alternative means of commuting to work. For example, in 2001, the City purchased an abandoned railroad right-of-way (known as the Greenway Trail). Completed in 2008, it will help improve air quality by providing alternative means of commuting (i.e., walking or biking) to work.

The City has taken delivery of a second compressed natural gas (CNG) refuse truck, bringing the total amount of alternative fueled vehicles to 5 in the Fleet

Department. The City has 6 other CNG fueled vehicles on order: 5 refuse trucks and 1 street sweeper. Each of these vehicles is replacing existing diesel fueled trucks and awarded grant funding is being applied to each purchase (\$20,000 each).

The City continues to encourage flexible work schedules (i.e., 9/80, 4/40) for various departments (i.e. Police Department, Water Division, Parks Department and Community Services Department) and ride-sharing by offering preferred parking spaces and other awards. To get "credit" for those employees who are already carpooling, walking, biking or taking public transportation to work, a transportation survey was conducted in 2009. The survey included all employees reporting to work at the Civic Center complex and City facilities within two miles of the Civic Center. The survey results found that employees were split into those arriving during the peak commuting "window" from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and all others arriving after 10:00 a.m. Of the 467 employees that were surveyed, a total of 97 percent responded to the survey questionnaire.

The survey results showed that there were 1,393 employee trips generated within the peak commuting "window" and 1,178 of these peak trips were drive-alone vehicle trips. The survey results also demonstrated that there were 463 employee trips generated after 10:00 a.m., within the off-peak window and 423 of these off-peak trips were drive-alone trips. Therefore, when the peak and off-peak figures are combined the current air quality ratio is 1.16. This figure is higher than last year's total of 1.12. The 2007-2008 Air Quality Improvement Plan (AQIP) requirement is a ratio of 1.5 persons per vehicle which meant the City had to purchase emission credits in 2009 to meet this 1.5 target.

The City has also begun installing solar systems for irrigation, speed radar signs (i.e. Painter and La Cuarta), bus shelters and crosswalk signs (Norwalk and Orange). The City is in the process of installing additional solar powered pedestrian crosswalks, bus shelters and radar signs.

**Public Safety Element** - The Public Safety Element addresses both natural and man-made hazards that may result in economic and social disruption, the loss of life, and/or damage of property. In an effort to minimize such loss/damage due to earthquakes, flood, fire, landslides, crime, hazardous materials/waste contamination and man-made hazards, the City has adopted a Standard Emergency Management System (SEMS) emergency operations plan. This disaster plan integrates community resources into municipal emergency management, including a list of local resources such as personnel, equipment, material, specialized medical and other training and auxiliary communications ARES/L.A. County Disaster Communications Systems.

As required by Presidential Directive 5, which was issued after September 11, 2001, the City has adopted Resolution No. 7875, which recognizes the National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) and adopts NIMS principles and policies

into the City's emergency management system. The national NIMS is essentially based on California's SEMS model. Although the two systems are very similar, in 2008, the City's existing SEMS-based emergency operations plan was updated, where necessary, to be fully compliant with NIMS. In conformance with the SEMS/NIMS emergency operations plan, the City of Whittier has continued to perform regular workshops, exercises and disaster drills in conjunction with other agencies (e.g., L.A. County Fire Department) and other institutions (e.g., Whittier College) that will help establish and maintain an on-going state of readiness within the City organization.

The City approved a Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan on September 14, 2004, which was also reviewed and approved by FEMA in June 2005. The Plan includes resources and information to assist City residents, public and private sector organizations, and others interested in participating in planning for natural hazards. The mitigation plan provides a list of activities that may assist the City of Whittier in reducing risk and preventing loss from future natural hazard events. The action items address multi-hazard issues, as well as activities for earthquakes, flooding and wildfires. The list of mitigation actions in the plan is reviewed by City staff on an annual basis prior to preparing yearly budget requests. The City is currently in the process of updating its Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan and anticipates its completion by February 2010.

The Police Department continues to enhance community safety through crime prevention and innovative strategies. Some of the existing law enforcement programs that have promoted public safety in the City of Whittier include the Neighborhood Watch Program, Public Service Area policing structure, DUI and seat belt enforcement grant programs, the School Resource Officer program and a peer-mentoring program for at-risk youth. The Department is currently seeking a partnership with the East Whittier School District who recently received a grant enabling them to fully fund a school resource officer for four years. The Police Department continues to utilize an additional traffic officer through an OTS grant in order to augment resources specific to traffic safety. In addition, the Department applied for and received two additional *Click it or Ticket* grants through the Office of Traffic Safety for the purpose of enforcing seat belt laws. Because traffic safety continues to be a priority, another grant was obtained enabling the purchase of three new hand-held Lidar devices. Moreover, utilizing transportation funds, the Department purchased two dual purpose motorcycles specifically to patrol the new Greenway Trail. Other federal grants were obtained enabling the Police Department to upgrade communication infrastructure, purchase state of the art computer analyzing programs to assist with digital equipment investigations, and other programs to enhance crime analysis and forensics. The City continues to participate in several multi-agency crime task forces focusing on vehicle theft and illegal drug trafficking. This participation ensures that a collaborative partnership between various law enforcement agencies, courts, parole, probation, the District Attorney's office and local school districts is maintained. Finally, the City's first gang injunction was granted



through the Superior Court and since its inception, the Department has focused on strict enforcement resulting in several arrests and criminal filings.

**Noise Element** – The Noise Element of the General Plan is dedicated to protecting the community from excessive noise. The City recognizes that there are two major categories of noise sources, mobile and stationary. With respect to stationary noise sources, they are generally associated with industrial and commercial activities, construction work, and human activity. Mitigation of these noise sources typically involves limiting business hours, restricting commercial and industrial business operations to enclosed buildings, and/or considering land use compatibility when determining an acceptable limit for noise exposure for various land uses. A variety of these options continue to be implemented for all new developments in the City as a means of mitigating adverse noise impacts. It is important to note that the City routinely requires noise studies (particularly for new residential development) to ensure compliance with the City's Noise Ordinance. Noise mitigation is therefore applied to all new projects, as necessary.

**Historical Resources Element** – The Historical Resources Element is an optional Element that specifically meets the historic preservation needs of the City. The comprehensive update of the City's historic resources ordinance, in 2001, continues to serve as a guide for the historic resources located throughout the City. The most recent and prominent addition to the list of National Historic Landmarks is the Whittier Train Depot, which was placed back on the National Register in 2004. In addition, the City most recently added to its "Official Local Register of Historic Resources" the house at 13504 Earlham (a.k.a. Earlham Hall/Tebbits-Coffin House) as a resource that is eligible for designation as a local historic landmark. However, the property owner (Whittier College) has not pursued landmark designation at this time.

The City of Whittier approved the use of Mills Act agreements, in the early 1990s, for the owners of designated historic properties or contributing resources within a historic district. Based on this action, the City promotes awareness and the use of Mills Act Agreements as an incentive for the preservation of local historic buildings. This agreement provides a method of reducing property taxes in exchange for the continued preservation of the property. Property taxes are recalculated using a specific Mills Act assessment method. During the period 2008-2009, the City of Whittier has received and approved one new Mills Act Agreement application. Currently, there are a total of 32 Mills Act Agreements within Whittier.

The City also approved 12 "period appropriate" additions to structures over 50 years old throughout the City between 2008 and 2009.

In 2002, Whittier completed a citywide windshield survey of all residential structures built prior to 1941, based on an historic architectural context. A total of

1,516 buildings from the survey were found to have retained enough historic fabric and architectural integrity to warrant some degree of historic value and preservation. Therefore, in 2006, the City hired Galvin Preservation and Associates to help develop a "Tiering System" to identify specific preservation standards to be applied to each of the 1,516 buildings based on one of four preservation tier categories. Each tier requires certain thresholds to be met for each building being evaluated in order to assign its Tier ranking. Once the details of the Tiering System are completed, it will be incorporated into the City's Historic Preservation Ordinance which is anticipated to be comprehensively updated during FY 2009-2010.

-The End-